

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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POUCHED TO ALL CONSULS IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, CA

SUBJECT: DEPARTURE OF DR. SCHLESINGER AND THE CANADIAN DEFENSE  
COMMITMENT TO NATO

1. FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE DURING QUESTION PERIOD IN  
CANADIAN HOUSE OF COMMONS, NOVEMBER 4:

2. MR. ALLAN B. MCKINNON (VICTORIA): MR. SPEAKER, AS DR.  
SCHLESINGER WAS A PROPONENT OF STRONG CONVENTIONAL FORCES  
AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO NUCLEAR RETALIATION, CAN THE MINISTER  
ASSURE THE HOUSE AND THE COUNTRY THAT DR. SCHLESINGER'S DE-  
PARTURE WILL NOT CHANGE THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT  
TO MAINTAIN OUR NATO FORCES IN EUROPE AT LEAST AT THEIR  
PRESENT LEVELS AND THAT CANADA WILL NOT REVERT TO THE POLICY  
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS THE ONLY DEFENCE.

3. "HON JAMES RICHARDSON (MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE):  
MR. SPEAKER, I THINK THAT THE POLICY OF THE UNITED  
STATES SECRETARY OF DEFENCE, IN WHICH WE BELIEVE, IS  
THAT THE CENTRAL OBJECTIVE IS TO ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL  
STABILITY AND THAT WE ACHIEVE THAT STABILITY BY MEANS  
OF A BALANCE OF MILITARY FORCES AND THAT WE ACHIEVE  
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THE BALANCE IN THE THREE AREAS OF STRATEGIC UNCLEAR,

THEATRE NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS. WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A GROWING REQUIREMENT FOR A BALANCE OF MILITARY FORCES AT THE CONVENTIONAL LEVEL. THAT IS THE POLICY THAT HAS BEEN EXPRESSED BY THE U.S. DEFENCE DEPARTMENT WHICH IS ENDORSED IN STATEMENTS THT I HAVE MADE. I WOULD LIKE TO CONFIRM OUR BELIEF AS A MEANS OF ACHIEVING INTERNATIONAL STABILITY."

4. COMMENT: FOLLOWING SCHLESINGER VISIT TO OTTAWA, INDICATIONS FROM SEVERAL GOC SOURCES (EXTAFF, DND, PMO) WERE TO THE EFFECT THAT GOC WAS RE-ALIGNING ITS DEFENSE PRIORITIES IN TERMS OF MAJOR EQUIPMENT PURCHASES, ALONG LINES OF PRIORITIES FOR CANADA ENUNCIATED BY SCHLESINGER, I.E. (1) NATO CONTINGENT IN EUROPE, (2) MAINTENANCE OF NORTH ATLANTIC SEALANES, AND (3) NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE. DEFMIN RICHARDSON'S PUBLIC COMMENTS QUOTED ABOVE WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT GOC IS STILL ADHERING TO THOSE PRIORITIES. THIS CONFIRMED PRIVATELY TO POLCOUNSELOR BY PM ADVISER MICHAEL KIRBY WHO WAS PRESENT AT DISCUSSION IN PM'S OFFICE OF SCHLESINGER DEPARTURE. CONSENSUS OF DISCUSSION WAS THAT CHANGE OF SECDEFS OBVIOUSLY UNRELATED TO AND WOULD NOT ALTER GOC CONSIDERATION OF PRINCIPLES STATED BY SCHLESINGER AS GOC FINALIZES PHASE II OF DEFENSE STRUCTURE REVIEW.  
PORTER

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